

Odenwald & Joh Brewery
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1018
private, 1862

Statement of Significance

Baltimore was a major brewing center in the nineteenth century, partly because of its large German population, and partly because of its ready supply of grain. By the end of the century there were dozens of small, independetnly owned breweries in the city. The industry remained a prosperous one until Prohibition crippled it in 1920. The Odenwald & Joh Brewery, established in 1862 on S. Calverton Street in West Baltimore, is a good example of a typical small Baltimore brewery of this period.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-1018

Magi No. 0410185514

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Odenwald & Joh Brewery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 132-154 S. Calverton Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dell Realty; Lenmar Lacquers

132/46 S. Calverton Street

street & number 150/54 S. Calverton Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code

Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

SCL 4505
liber 9529

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets

155
folio 295

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-1018

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The former Odenwald and Joh Brewery is a fine example of an early brewery which grew over a period of years to adapt to changing conditions. The main facade of this plant is now somewhat obscured by a series of additions which connected it to the buildings on South Calverton Street. The main mass is a two-story brick structure with elaborate corbelling like many of the other remaining German-built breweries in the city. It is eleven bays wide by eleven bays long. The west facade has a five bay central portico a half story higher with a winged pediment wall. On either side is a three bay wing with a vehicular door in the end bays. The south facade has a similar massing but the portico is not as prominent. It is only three bays wide with two additions of two bays on either side. At the rear of this structure is the chimney stack, one of the most striking in the city. Unfortunately, nothing remains of the power house it once served. The interior is timber post and beam construction. Only one of the brick vaulted cellars is still accessible under this building although there were probably several. At the rear is a later addition which now houses brush making machinery for the Samuel Dell Company, brush manufacturers.

Two shed additions of two stories connect the east facade of the main building to what is now the office of the brush company. The office itself is a typical rowhouse of the 1850's. It is a two and one-half story building with gabled roof and probably housed the brewery's tavern at one time.

South of this complex is a series of warehouse buildings, mostly of more recent construction. Although the property was once occupied by other brewery buildings, none of the present structures has much functional significance.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1018

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1862

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Baltimore was a major brewing center in the nineteenth century, partly because of its large German population, and partly because of its ready supply of grain. By the end of the century there were dozens of small, independently owned breweries in the city. The industry remained a prosperous one until Prohibition crippled it in 1920. The Odenwald and Joh Brewery, established in 1862 on S. Calverton Street in West Baltimore, is a good example of a typical small Baltimore brewery of this period.

The Odenwald and Joh Brewery on S. Calverton Street in West Baltimore was founded in 1862. Philip J. Odenwald, who had emigrated from Germany in 1850, worked as a tavern keeper prior to becoming a brewer. His partner, Ferdinand Joh, who also had come from Germany, was also originally a bartender. Together they built a small brewery with a tavern on the property. The brewery had deep cellars, and ice was used for cooling. After a few years, the partners also built a malt mill and did their own malting. The brewery never produced a very large amount of beer - only about 4000 barrels per year.

Philip Odenwald died in 1872. His brother-in-law, John Sommerfeld, bought Joh's interest in the brewery, and operated it under his own name. (Julia Odenwald, Philip's wife, still kept a share in the business for a few years.) Joh established his own brewery in 1873, which, upon his death three years later, became the Eigenbrot Brewery (operated by his son-in-law, Henry Eigenbrot).

John Sommerfeld had previously operated a liquor store. He enlarged the brewery so that by 1890, it consisted of a two-story brewhouse, a three-story ice-house, an engine house, stable, and a four-story malt house. But apparently production at the brewery still did not reach a very large scale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1018

Kelly Brewing in Maryland 1964

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Barr, Dennis Zembala

organization Baltimore Museum of Industry

date November 1983

street & number 1415 Key Highway

telephone 727-4808

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Odenwald & Joh Brewery
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1018

8.1

By 1895, Sommerfeld was unable to pay the interest on the mortgage on the plant and was forced to sell out. The brewery was bought by the Lion Brewing Company, which was headed by J. Harry Biemiller. The brewery did not succeed under the new management, and in 1898, Kurt Rudolph Steinberg became the new manager, and then the new president in 1900. The Lion Brewery was purchased by the Maryland Brewing Company in 1901. (The Maryland Brewing Company had bought out seventeen Baltimore breweries in 1899.) They had overextended themselves, however, and shortly after the Lion purchase, the Maryland Brewing Company was totally bought out (including the Lion plant) by the Gottlieb-Bauernschmidt-Straus Brewing Company. As it was one of their least productive plants, the G-B-S closed the Lion Brewery in 1902. The equipment was mostly sold for scrap, as it was far out of date. (Mechanical refrigeration had never been installed in the brewery, one possible reason why it failed.)

The site of the brewery was later occupied by the Samuel Dell Company, brush manufacturers, and Lenmar Lacquers, a paint company.

1. SITE I.D. NO. B-1018										HAER INVENTORY										Historic American Engineering Record Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 2040																																							
2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION <i>manufacture</i>										3. PRIORITY										4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN																																							
										5. DATE <i>1862</i>										6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT OWNER: ADMIN: 																																							
																				7. OWNER/ADMIN <i>Dell Realty / Lenmar Lacquers</i>																																							
8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE <i>Odenwald & Joh Brewery</i>																				9. OWNER'S ADDRESS <i>132/46 S. Calverton / 150/54 S. Calverton</i>																																							
10. STATE COUNTY: M D					COUNTY NAME					CITY/VICINITY <i>BALTIMORE</i>					CONG. DIST.					STATE COUNTY: M D					COUNTY NAME					CITY/VICINITY <i>Baltimore</i>					CONG. DIST.																								
11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) <i>132 - 154 S. Calverton Road</i>																				12. EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> NR <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER-I <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NPS <input type="checkbox"/> CL6 <input type="checkbox"/> CONF <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER																																							
13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)																				<input type="checkbox"/> INTERIOR INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> EXTERIOR INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONS INTACT																																							
14. UTM ZONE					EASTING					NORTHING					SIGN					SCALE					QUAD NAME																																		
18					357440					4350380										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:62.5					<i>BALTO. WEST</i>																																		
																				<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER																																							
15. CONDITION					70 <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT					71 <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD					72 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR					73 <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED					74 <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS					75 <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED					76 <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED					82 <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROYED					85 <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLISHED														
16. INVENTORIED BY <i>Leslie Barr</i>																				AFFILIATION <i>Baltimore Museum of Industry</i>																				DATE <i>9/83</i>																			
17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC. <i>see attached</i>																																																											

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE <i>manufacture</i>										PRESENT USE <i>manufacture</i>										ADAPTIVE USE									
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19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

William Kelley Brewing in Maryland 1964

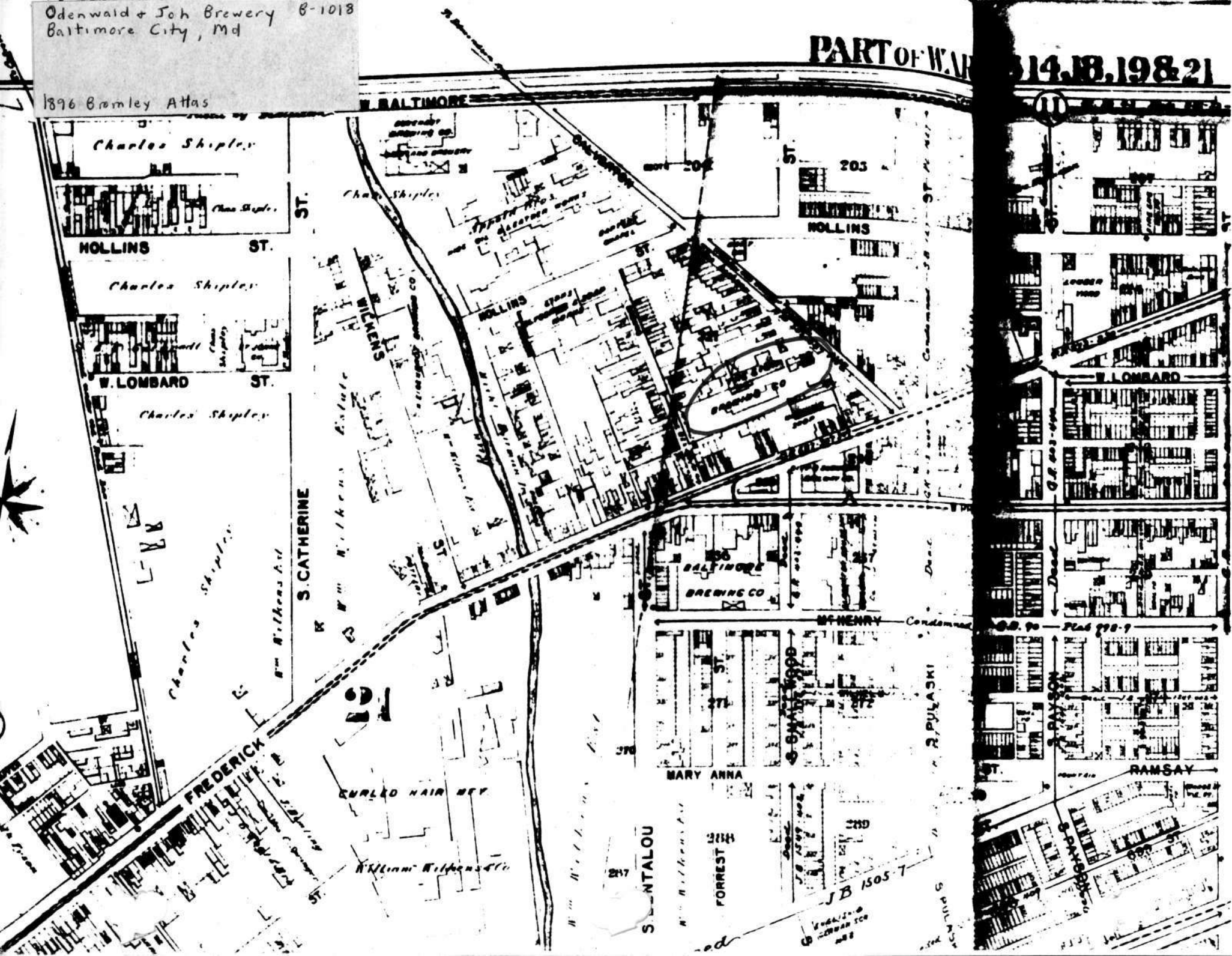
(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO										21. NPS REGION										22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN										23. EDITOR INDEXER									
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO										NAME										DISTRICT I.D. NO																			

1896 Bromley Atlas

PART OF WAY

14, 18, 19 & 21





GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

